

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) ~~An~~ The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 1 in which for performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and there is provided

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, ~~and~~ wherein

the control means controls the laser pickup ~~to so that it~~ perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein ~~in~~ which the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 3, wherein ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claims 6 and 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (**Currently Amended**) ~~A~~ ~~The method for controlling an the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 6 which detects~~ having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:

following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;

seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;

repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued;

detecting a the consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a the consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time in the first step, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area; ~~and which performs~~

performing a the hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, in the second step ~~when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected in the first step.~~

Claim 9 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which~~ further comprising switching a the rotation speed of the optical disc is switched in the second step at the hold tracking.

Claim 10 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 8, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area in the first step, interrupting the detection is interrupted immediately.

Claim 11 (**Currently Amended**) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 4, ~~wherein in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 12 (**Currently Amended**) ~~An~~ The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 2 in which ~~there is provided~~ for performing recording or reading of data on an optical disc, the optical disc apparatus comprising:

a laser pickup operable to irradiate laser light onto the optical disc;

a control means for performing a play control which makes the laser pickup follow a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc after a recording of data is completed, seek a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area, and repeat the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued; and

a detection means for detecting a consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or detecting a consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area, wherein

the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed, and

the control means controls the laser pickup ~~to so that it~~ perform a hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, when the detection means detects the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area.

Claim 13 (**Currently Amended**) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein ~~in~~ which the control means performs a control of switching of a rotation speed of the optical disc at the hold tracking.

Claim 14 (**Currently Amended**) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 13, wherein ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 15 (**Currently Amended**) The optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 12, wherein ~~in~~ which when the detection means receives the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area on the optical disc, the detection means

interrupts the detection immediately.

Claim 16 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 9, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area in the first step, interrupting the detection is interrupted immediately.

Claim 17 (**Currently Amended**) ~~A~~ The method for controlling an the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 7 which detects having a laser pickup for recording or reading data by irradiating laser light onto an optical disc, the method comprising:

following a track of a predetermined area on the optical disc with the laser pickup after a recording of data is completed;

seeking a head of the predetermined area when the laser pickup exceeds the predetermined area;

repeating the following operation and the seeking operation until a next command is issued;

detecting a the consecutive recorded area where data are continuously recorded for a constant period of time on the optical disc or a the consecutive non-recorded area where no data are recorded for a constant period of time in the first step, when the laser pickup is following the track of the predetermined area; ~~and which performs~~

performing a the hold tracking in the consecutive recorded area or in the consecutive non-recorded area, respectively, in the second step when the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area is detected, ~~in the first step~~

wherein the head of the predetermined area is in a neighborhood of a position where the recording operation is completed.

Claim 18 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which~~ further comprising switching a the rotation speed of the optical disc is switched in the second step at the hold tracking.

Claim 19 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 18, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.

Claim 20 (**Currently Amended**) The method for controlling the optical disc apparatus as defined in claim 17, ~~in which~~ further comprising when receiving the next command while detecting the consecutive recorded area or the consecutive non-recorded area ~~in the first step~~, interrupting the detection ~~is interrupted~~ immediately.